

Message Text

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JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

PASS OES/EP/PA, DHEW/PHS/NIG, NEA/INS, AID/ASIA/SA/BIS

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SUBJ: MANY INDIAN STATES EXCEED STERILIZATION TARGETS

1. SUMMARY: STERILIZATION FIGURES RELEASED BY GOI FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS (APRIL-AUGUST) OF THE CURRENT INDIAN FISCAL YEAR (1976-77) SHOW NEARLY A FOURFOLD INCREASE OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR. SEVERAL STATES HAVE ALREADY EXCEEDED THEIR ANNUAL TARGETS. A NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING FORTNIGHT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED FROM SEPTEMBER 16-31 TO MOVE THE PROGRAM FURTHER TOWARDS MEETING ITS GOAL OF 4.3 MILLION STERILIZATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO STERILIZATION FIGURES RELEASED RECENTLY BY THE GOI DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY PLANNING, A TOTAL OF 2,004,263 STERILIZATIONS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED IN THE COUNTRY DURING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS (APRIL-AUGUST) OF THE CURRENT GOI FISCAL YEAR (IFY 1976-77) AS COMPARED TO
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437,412 STERILIZATIONS DURING THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF

LAST YEAR. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 400 PERCENT. THE 2,004,263 STERILIZATIONS ALSO REPRESENT 47 PERCENT OF THE TARGET OF 4.3 MILLION STERILIZATIONS SET FOR IFY 1976-77.

3. WHILE ALMOST ALL THE STATES AND CENTRALL ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES HAVE SHOWN MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER LAST YEAR, THR RESULTS IN DELHI, MADHYA PRADESH, WEST BENGAL AND HIMACHAL PRADESH HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY NOTABLE. ALL OF THRESE STATES HAVE ALREADY EXCEEDED THEIR TARGETS FOR THE ENTIRE FISCAL YEAR. DELHI LEADS THE GROUP WITH A PERFORM-ANCE OF 68,511 STERILIZATIONS DURING THE FIVE-MONTH PERIOD AGAINS ITS ANNUAL TARGET OF 29,000 STERILIZATIONS. SECOND IS MADHYA PRADESH, ONE OF THE POOREST STATES IN FAMILY PLANNING PERFORMANCE UNTIL RECENTLY, WITH 381,439 STERILIZA-TIONS AGAINST ITS TARGET OF 267,500, FOLLOWED BY WEST BANGAL (409,648 AGAINST 393,500) AND HIMACHAL PRADESH (31,551 AGAINST 31,500).

4. PERFORMANCE AMONG THE OTHER STATES VARIES CONSIDERABLY. EVEN AMONG THOSE STATES WHICH HAVE INTRODUCED STRONG ADMINISTRATIVE AND INCENTIVE/DISINCENTIVE MEASURES, THERE ARE GRATE VARIATIONS IN PERFORMANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE UTTAR PRADESH, WHICH HAD INTRODUCED MEASURES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF DELHI AND MADHYA PRADESH, HAS ACHIEVED NEARLY 52 PERCENT OF ITS ANNUAL TARGET, HARAYANA WHICH HAD ALSO INTRODUCED SUCH MEASURES, HAS COMPLETED ONLY 30 PERCENT OF ITS TARGET SO FAR. SIMILARLY, PUNJAB AND MAHARASHTRA ARE TRAILING FAR BEHIND THEIR TARGETS. THE ANNUAL TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR IN SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT STATES OF INDIA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	ANNUAL TARGET	PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER	ACHIEVEMENTS	CORRES. PERIOD
STATE	(IFY 76-77)	(APR--AUG76)	OF LAST YEAR	
UTTAR PRADESH	400,000	208,388	1532.2	
MAHARASHTRA	562,000	133,240	103.9	
KARNATAKA	244,500	127,635	534.4	
TAMIL NADU	500,000	104,831	71.3	

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ANDHRA PRADESH	400,000	83.122	78.2
ORISSA	195,500	81,610	167.9
KERALA	222,501	76,866	213.7
GUJARAT	200,000	74,012	142.4
BIHAR	300,000	66,531	578.3
ASSAM	170,000	65,873	69.6
RAJASTHAN	175,000	52,197	240.1
PUNJAB	46,500	16,886	144.6

HARAYANA 52,000 16,024 159.8

5. A NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING FORTNIGHT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED FROM SEPTEMBER 16-31, 1976 TO ENCOURAGE SOME OF THE STATES TO FULFILL THEIR TARGETS AND TO MOVE THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM TOWARD MEETING ITS GOAL OF 4.3 MILLION STERILIZATIONS SET FOR THE YEAR. SPECIAL INTENSIVE STERILIZATION CAMPS ARE PROPOSED TO BE ORGANIZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY DURING THE FORTNIGHT. COMMENT: DR. KARAN SINGH, GOI HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING MINISTER TOLD THE EMBASSY SCI/ATTACHE A WHO MEETING, THAT

HE IS ANTICIPATING OVER 5 MILLION STERILIZATIONS IN INDIA FOR THE FY ENDING MARCH 1977. HE MENTIONED HE WOULD BE INAUGURATING THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING FORTNIGHT IN INDIA ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND THIS SHOULD CERTAINLY ACCELERATE THE MOMENTUM IN MANY STATES, HOPEFULLY EVEN IN JAMMU KASHMIR HIS HOME STATE, THAT HAS LAGGED BEHIND IN ADOPTING THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. HE WAS, HOWEVER, ENCOURAGED THAT THE HIEF MINISTER, SHEIKH ABDULLA NOW HOLDS THE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING PORTFOLIO HIMSELF AND WAS INSTITUTING A STRONG HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SYSTEM IN THE STATE.

THE MINISTER REMARKED THAT THE MAHARAstra STATE STERILIZATION BILL HAD BEEN CLEARED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON THE BASIS THAT MAHARAstra OPERATES A HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE ADEQUATE TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE BILL. HOWEVER, THE BILL WAS BACK WITH THE HOME MINISTRY WHERE CERTAIN ELEMENTS ARE UNDER QUESTION, PARTICULARLY THE SECTION INFLECTING A SIX MONTH TO TWO YEAR JAIL SENTANCE ON CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT ADHERING TO THE THREE CHILD LIMIT OR WITH OVER THREE CHILDREN AND NOT OBTAINING A STERILIZATION. THIS, HE SAID IS SOMEWHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARSH AND WILL BE ELIMINATED. KAREN SINGH STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND PARLIA-
MENT AS WELL AS HIMSELF WERE AGAINST COMPULSION AND COERCION IN THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. HE INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL WITH THE NEW STATE LEGISLATION SINCE THERE ARE SIMILAR BILLS FROM PUNJAB, HARAYANA AND UTTAR PRADESH AT THE HOME MINISTRY, WAITING FOR REVIEW. THE MAHARAstra BILL WILL MOST LIKELY SET THE TONE FOR THE OTHER BILLS. THE MINISTER WAS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THE MAHARASHTRA BILL WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT'S CONSENT BUT WITH CERTAIN CHANGES TO CONFORM WITH THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING POLICY. SAXBE

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